CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A device, comprising:

a plurality of wireless network adapters;

a sense driver adapted to sense an operational state of at least two of the plurality of wireless network adapters; and

a policy manager adapted to receive state information from the sense driver and to selectively activate at least one of the plurality of wireless network adapters based on the state information.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the policy manager is adapted to selectively hold at least one of a non-selected group of the plurality of wireless network adapters in a reduced power state, and wherein the non-selected group does not include an activated one of the plurality of wireless network adapters.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the policy manager is adapted to store a hierarchy of preferred wireless network adapters.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein the policy manager is further adapted to selectively activate at least one of the plurality of wireless network adapters based on the hierarchy of preferred wireless network adapters.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein the policy manager is adapted to be programmed by a user to establish the hierarchy of preferred wireless network adapters.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wireless network adapters include at least one wireless network interface card adapted to operate according to an IEEE 802.11x standard.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wireless network adapters include at least one wireless network interface card adapted to operate according to a general packet radio service standard.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein the sense driver is adapted to continuously sense the operational state of each of the plurality of wireless network adapters.

9. A device, comprising:

a plurality of network adapters;

a sensing driver adapted to sense an operational state of at least two of the plurality of network adapters;

a policy manager adapted to receive state information from the sensing driver and to selectively activate at least one of the plurality of network adapters based on the state information and a hierarchy of preferred network adapters, the policy manager being adapted to selectively hold others of the plurality of network adapters based on the state information and a hierarchy of preferred network adapters in a reduced power state; and

a battery adapted to provide power to at least the plurality of network adapters.

10. The device of claim 9, wherein the policy manager is adapted to conserve power in the battery by deactivation of the non-selected ones of the plurality of network adapters.

11. The device of claim 10, wherein the battery is adapted to provide power to a host and a user input/output interface.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein the battery provides power to run the sensing driver and the policy manager.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein the plurality of network adapters includes at least one wireless network adapter.

14. The device of claim 9, wherein the selected one of the plurality of network adapters is continuously powered by the battery to maintain a connection with a base-station.

15. A method, comprising:

storing a hierarchy of network adapters;

sensing available network adapters;

activating a preferred available, network adapter according to the stored hierarchy; and

deactivating at least one of the other available network adapters.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein storing the hierarchy includes programming a network connection priority and a number of preferred available network adapters.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein storing a hierarchy of network adapters includes storing at least one wireless network adapter in the hierarchy, wherein activating the preferred network adapter includes attempting to connect the wireless network adapter to a wireless base-station of a wired network.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein sensing available wireless network adapters includes continuously sensing for newly available wireless network adapters.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein activating a preferred available, network adapter includes deactivating a less preferred network adapter if a more preferred network adapter is sensed to be available.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein sensing available network adapters includes continuously sensing whether the connection between the network adapter and the base-station is dropped.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein activating a preferred available, network adapter includes deactivating the preferred network adapter if the connection is dropped and activating a less preferred network adapter.

22. The method of claim 15, wherein activating a preferred available, network adapter includes deactivating the preferred network adapter if the preferred network adapter is sensed to be unavailable and activating a next, less preferred network adapter.

23. A system, comprising:
a wireless base-station;
a user device to connect to the wireless base-station, the user device including:
    a plurality of wireless network adapters;
    a sense driver adapted to sense an operational state of at least two of the plurality of wireless network adapters; and
    a policy manager adapted to receive state information from the sense driver and to selectively activate at least one of the plurality of wireless network adapters based on the state information.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the wireless base-station is adapted to communicate in at least one of a group of wireless technologies consisting essentially of General Packet Radio Service, IEEE 802.11x, IEEE 802.2, and IEEE 802.3.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of wireless network adapters includes a first wireless network adapter to communicate by General Packet Radio

Service, and a second wireless network adapter adapted to communicate by IEEE 802.11x .

26. The system of claim 23, wherein the policy manager is adapted to be programmed with a network connection priority and a number of preferred available wireless network adapters.

27. The system of claim 23, wherein the policy manager is adapted to activate a preferred one of the wireless network adapters that attempts to connect to the base-station.

28. The system of claim 23, wherein the sense driver is adapted to continuously sense for newly available wireless network adapters.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the policy manager is adapted to deactivate a less preferred wireless network adapter if a more preferred wireless network adapter is sensed to be available.

30. The system of claim 23, wherein the sense driver is adapted to continuously sense whether the connection between the wireless network adapter and the base-station is dropped.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the policy manager is adapted to deactivate the preferred wireless network adapter if the connection is dropped and to activate a less preferred wireless network adapter.